United Nations E/AC.51/2001/L.6/Add.42

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
6 July 2001

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-first session
11 June-6 July 2001
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on the work of its forty-first session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Ayman **Elgammal** (Egypt)

Addendum

Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate

(Item 7)

1. The Committee considered agenda item 7, entitled "Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate", and reviewed the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations agreed to by the Committee on the matter at its thirty-eighth, thirty-ninth and fortieth sessions.

Discussion

Progress in implementation of the Committee's conclusions and recommendations

2. The view was expressed that the Committee might wish to consider other matters related to its methods of work which had previously been discussed in the Committee, but on which no decisions had been taken, such as strengthening the relationship between the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, rationalization of the Committee's work, making efficient use of conference services and placing time limits on the oral presentations of the Secretariat. The view was also expressed that the Committee had made progress over the years in its method of work.

01-44526 (E) 090701

Secretariat

3. The view was expressed that, despite the praiseworthy efforts of the Secretariat to produce draft reports on time, there was a noticeable difference related to the diminution of the secretariat of the Committee. It was stated that the Committee's secretariat should be enhanced.

The role of observers

4. The views were expressed that the inputs of observers enriched the discussion of the Committee, and that their participation was in the interest of the Committee. Furthermore, the more inclusive the participation of observers, the fewer the problems generated in the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Bearing in mind the limits proscribed by the rules and regulations, the participation of observers in the work of the Committee should be fully inclusive.

Use of terminology

5. Delegations expressed the view that the terms "takes note of" and "notes" were neutral terms that did not mean approval or disapproval. Dissatisfaction was expressed with the opinion rendered by the Legal Counsel (A/C.5/55/42) that the term "takes note of" is not neutral. It was also stated that the Committee should have a clear understanding of what these terms mean, and that this was a matter on which the General Assembly should pronounce itself.

Organization of work

6. It was stated that, when planning its programme of work, the Committee should be sensitive to the concerns of small delegations; the meetings should be organized so as to maximize their ability to participate. For example, the items for the formal meeting should be set for a fixed date and time, and speakers should be allotted time during that period for their interventions. The informal consultations should be arranged only during the last week or week and a half of the session.

Documentation

7. It was noted that the Secretariat is able to issue documents only when they are available, but that it was important for documents to be issued in a timely manner to facilitate the prompt commencement of work.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. **The Committee reaffirmed the conclusions and recommendations adopted on its working methods and procedures at its thirty-eighth, thirty-ninth and fortieth sessions.**

9. **The Committee considered that the terms "takes note of" and "notes" used in the present report are neutral terms that constitute neither approval nor disapproval, and looked forward to further guidance from the General Assembly on this question during the fifty-sixth session.**